

REMARKS

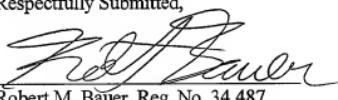
Claims 1-3, 13, 17-19, 21, 26, 28, 33-36, and 44-47 are pending in this application as a result of this Supplemental Preliminary Amendment. Claims 1, 33 and 44 are independent claims. Claims 4-12, 14-16, 20, 22-25, 27, 29-32, 39-43 and 48-50 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer by this Amendment.

This is a national stage application filed pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 371(c). A Preliminary Amendment was previously submitted to amend the original claims to improve grammar, and to remove multiple dependencies and references to the drawings. The Abstract was also amended to remove references to the drawings and improve grammar.

This Supplemental Preliminary Amendment is being filed simultaneously with a Request for First-Action Interview (Pilot Program), PTO/SB/413C. It merely cancels a number of the claims without prejudice or disclaimer in order to reduce the number of independent claims to three and to reduce the number of dependent claims to twenty in order to qualify this application for the Pilot Program. No new matter has been added.

Respectfully Submitted,

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